

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

This supplemental amendment addresses issues raised by the Advisory Action dated December 22, 2004 and follows a teleconference between Examiner Mullen and the undersigned attorney on January 4, 2005. During that telephone conversation, Examiner Muller agreed to waive the requirement for canceling at least as many claims as are added in this amendment, inasmuch as such claims recite subject matter previously indicated as being allowable, if the remaining objections were adequately addressed. To that end, it was further agreed the undersigned would replace the previously proposed claims 45, 46 and 62 to address comments made in the Advisory Action. In addition, previously proposed claims 3, 34 and 42-44 have been amended to address objections raised in the Advisory Action.

1. Amendments affecting the objections to the drawings/specification

The objections to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) have been obviated by canceling the objectionable subject matter from the claims (see claims 14, 18, 31, 34 and 35, as amended).

The objections to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) have been obviated by appropriate amendments to the specification. Reference numbers 260 and 270 are now recited in paragraph [0030] of the specification, as amended. These amendments do not introduce any new subject matter into the application because they merely add reference designations to subject matter previously recited in the specification as filed. The amendments obviate the need for replacement drawing sheets.

2. Amendments affecting the objections to & rejections of the claims.

The objections to claims 11, 28 and 31-37 under 37 CFR 1.75(a) have been obviated by appropriate amendments as requested in the Final Office Action.

The rejection of claims 22 and 24-37 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, have been obviated by appropriate amendment of claim 22.

Regarding the remaining rejections of the claims, new claim 45 recites the subject matter of former claim 21 (including the claims from which former claim 21 depended), corrected for informalities, which subject matter was indicated as being allowable. Claims 2-5, 7, 9-12, 14-16

and 18-20 have been amended to depend from new claim 45 and should therefore be likewise allowable.

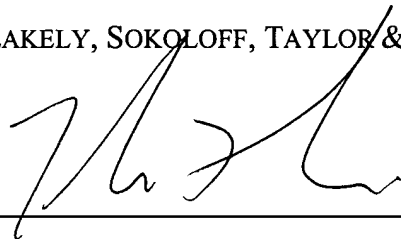
New claim 46 recites the subject matter of former claim 44 (including the claims from which it depended), corrected for informalities, which subject matter was indicated as being allowable. New claims 47-61 depend from new claim 46 and recite subject matter found in claims 2-5, 7, 9-12, 14-16 and 18-20 and should likewise be allowable.

New claim 62 recites the subject matter of former claim 12 (including the claim from which it depended), which subject matter was indicated as being allowable. New claims 63-76 depend from new claim 62 and recite subject matter found in claims 2-5, 7, 9-12, 14-16 and 18-20 and should likewise be allowable.

For all of the foregoing reasons, the claims are believed to be allowable. If there are any additional fees due in connection with this communication, please charge our deposit account no. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

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